

Descriptions of some new Birds from the Solomon Islands and New Britain. By EDWARD P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., C.M.Z.S., &c., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

[Read November 3, 1881.]

1. CEYX SACERDOTIS, sp. nov.

Total length about 6 inches; bill from forehead 1·55, from gape 1·8.

Adult female.—A spot in front of the eye, the sides of the lower part of the throat, the chest, breast, sides, flanks, the margins of the shoulders, the under wing- and under tail-coverts, and the margins of the inner webs of the quills below, rich orange-buff; the throat and a spot on the side of the neck white; the centre of the abdomen whitish buff; the bases of all the feathers of the body above black; feathers of the interscapular region, back, rump, and upper tail-coverts of a rich glossy ultramarine; the head deep blue, with the tips of the feathers ultramarine; the tail-feathers black; quills black, their inner webs margined with orange-buff like the body; the cheeks like the head, very dark blue washed with cobalt, and separated from the white throat by a narrow streak of rich orange-buff. Legs and feet orange; bill orange, dark, almost brown along the culmen.

The young have the bill black with the tip white, but otherwise have the same coloration as the adult. The oblong spot behind the ear-coverts is white in both, but slightly tinged at the tips of the feathers with buff.

Hab. "Kabahadai," New Britain. From the Rev. George Brown's collection.

Remarks.—This fine species is allied to *Ceyx philippensis*; but has the centre of the abdomen white or nearly so, and a much greater extent of white on the throat. Dr. Otto Finsch, who has seen the specimens, is also of opinion that they are specifically distinct.

2. POMAREA (MONARCHA) UGIENSIS, sp. nov.

The whole of the plumage shining bluish black; the underside of the tail brownish black; the underside of the quills brownish black, of a lighter tint towards the base of the inner webs; the outer series of the under wing-coverts of the primaries brown tipped with black. Legs and feet black; bill blue-black, whitish on the tip and margins of the mandibles.

Total length about 7 inches; wing 3·5, tail 3·5, tarsus 0·8;

bill from forehead 0·95, from angle of the mouth 1·05, from nostril 0·6.

Sex female, adult. Both sexes are stated to be alike in plumage.

Hab. Island of "Ugi," Solomon Islands. From the Rev. George Brown's collection.

3. CALORNIS (APLONIS) FEADENSIS, sp. nov.

Adult male.—The whole plumage above and below of a dull dark (almost blackish) sepia-brown. Bill blackish brown. Legs lead-colour.

Total length about 7 inches; wing 4·4, tail 2·5, tarsus 1; bill from forehead 0·95, from angle of the mouth 1·1, from nostril 0·5.

There is scarcely any gloss on the feathers, except perhaps in certain lights on the wings and tail.

Hab. Island of "Fead." From the Rev. George Brown's collection.

Remarks.—This species comes near to *Calornis fusca*, Gould, from Lord Howe's Island, from which species, however, it is quite distinct.

From the same island Mr. Brown obtained also specimens of *Monarcha inornata* of Lesson, which differs only in being of a deeper rufous on the abdomen, and having the ashy grey a little darker in colour.

I have also obtained from Mr. Brown some very beautiful Doves (*Ptilopus*)—one evidently *Ptilopus eugenie* of Gray, another with the head, neck, and chest light ashy and a faint lilac tint on the crown. These, with several other new species, have been forwarded to Canon Tristram by my friend Lieutenant Richards, R.N. I shall therefore not describe them.

In Mr. Brown's collection I noticed a unique and beautiful *Carpophaga*, of which Dr. Finsch has taken a description and kindly forwarded it to me to insert here. The following, then, is the description of this unique and beautiful bird, which I have dedicated to my friend.

4. CARPOPHAGA FINSCHII, sp. nov.

Margin of the forehead, the sides of the head and neck, including the ear-coverts, chin, and throat of a delicate greyish vinaceous tint; a narrow ring of white round the eye; the upper part of the head light ashy grey; the nape and hind neck dark

grey; back and remainder of the upper surface of the body and wings dark golden green with coppery-red reflections in certain lights; quills black, the primaries margined with bluish metallic green on the outer webs, the primary-coverts tipped with golden green. The under surface, from the chest downwards, of a rich cinnamon-chestnut, becoming darker on the under tail-coverts; the tail-feathers of a rich steel-blue banded broadly with a band of ash-colour, the tips of the feathers being dark golden green. Bill black; cere reddish (dry skin); feet reddish purple; "irides red."

The size is about equal to that of *Carpophaga zoë* and *C. rufigaster* (Quoy et Gaim.).

5. BAZA GURNEYI, sp. nov.

Similar to *Baza Reinwardti* in many respects, but differs in having a paler head and neck, in having an almost pure white under surface, and in the bars being narrower, fewer, and of a darker tint. The shoulders are of a rich slate-colour of the same tint as the primaries; the breast and abdomen white, with a few very narrow cross bands of blackish slate; the margins of the shoulders and under wing-coverts white; a faint tinge of buff on the median under-coverts; the lower part of the abdomen and of the flanks and the under tail-coverts buff; tail ashy white below, ashy brown above, showing remains of two oblique blackish cross bands on its basal half, the first about the centre of the tail and extending over both webs, the apical third of the tail black. Bill black; legs and feet mealy brown; iris yellow.

Total length 15 to 16 inches; wing 12, tail 8, tarsus 1.3; bill (tip broken, but allowed for) 1.05, from gape 1.2.

Hab. "Ugi" (Rev. George Brown), and "Cape Pitt" (Cockrell), Solomon Islands.

Ugi is a small island about ten miles off "Gaudalcanar."

When I first notified *Baza Reinwardti* from the Solomon Islands, I was under the impression I had a veritable Solomon-Island bird before me. It now turns out that such was not the case; hence the mistake. There can be no doubt of the birds now under consideration both being from the Solomons. Dr. Finsch, who has examined my series, is of opinion that *Baza Gurneyi* is a good species. We have before us now specimens from New Britain, Port Moresby, Solomon Islands, and our own *Baza subcristata* from Australia: they are all probably varieties

of one and the same species; yet they show certain differences, which it is well to record under certain (specific) designations.

Note on Astur soloensis, Ramsay (nec Lath.).

Dr. Finsch, who has examined my specimen of *Astur soloensis* from Cape Pitt, is of opinion that it is not the true *A. soloensis*, Lath.

I therefore propose for the Solomon-Island bird the name of

6. *ASTUR PULCHELLUS*, sp. nov.—*Astur soloensis*, *Ramsay (nec Lath.)*, *P. L. S. of N. S. W.* iv. pt. 1, p. 66.

Hab. Solomon Islands.

7. *PTILOTTIS EUGENIÆ*, *Gray*.

After a careful comparison of many specimens, I have reluctantly come to the conclusion (which I have stated elsewhere) that the *Ptilopus* I referred to previously (*P. L. S. of N. S. W.* vol. iv. p. 73) as *Ptilopus viridis* is the female of *P. eugeniæ* (Gray). It is remarkable that the female of this species should be so brightly coloured on the breast. Moreover, young birds and so-called females, similar in plumage to the adults in all except having a purple breast, were obtained with the specimens I put down as *P. viridis* ♂.

The ornithology of the Solomon Islands is of so great interest that, an opportunity having offered, I have sent one of our taxidermists to the island of "Ugi," who, through the kindness of Capt. Bruce, R.N., will have opportunities of collecting and throwing some light on the subject, by carefully sexing the species. I hope by this means to clear up the doubt as to the sexes of my *Myiagra ferrocyanea* and *M. pallida*, and other birds of which we know little or nothing.

On the Homology of the Conario-hypophysial Tract, or the so-called Pineal and Pituitary Glands. By Professor OWEN, C.B., F.R.S., F.L.S., &c.

[Read December 1, 1881.]

THE structure and local relations of the pituitary and pineal glands, in Man, have received such close attention in anthropotomical works as to dispense with repetition. But, before entering upon the special aim of the present Paper, I feel bound to refer to